

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 856

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the student mental health division within the Texas Education Agency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 7, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 7.041 to read as follows:

Sec. 7.041. STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION. The commissioner by rule shall establish the student mental health division within the agency to:

(1) develop and administer a plan to identify, leverage, and align existing agency resources to promote the academic success of students with mental health needs, including students in special education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29; and

(2) promote strong local and statewide school-community partnerships by coordinating with community-based mental health services providers, youth services providers, and school district resources, including school counselors, and with relevant state agencies, including the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of State Health Services, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the commissioner of education shall adopt rules

1 establishing the student mental health division within the Texas
2 Education Agency as required by Section 7.041, Education Code, as
3 added by this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.